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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/762,952	03/12/2001	Atsushi Hayashi	108613	1943

7590 07/17/2003

Oliff & Berridge
PO Box 19928
Alexandria, VA 22320

EXAMINER

CAO, HUEDUNG X

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2671
DATE MAILED: 07/17/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/762,952	HAYASHI, ATSUSHI
	Examiner Huedung X Cao	Art Unit 2671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 8,9,20,21,32 and 33 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 1-7,10-19,22-31 and 34-36 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 8-9, 20-21, and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikematsu et al. (US 5613913).

As per claim 8, and similar claims 20, and 32 Ikematsu teaches the claimed “image generation system” comprising:

means for playing a motion of an object formed by a plurality of parts based on motion data which Ikematsu teaches in the simulation process (Ikematsu, col. 5, lines 34-59);

means for generating the motion of an object through a physical simulation which Ikematsu teaches in the simulation process (Ikematsu, col. 5, lines 34-59);

means for switching processing from a play of the object's motion based on the motion data to a generation of the object's motion through the physical simulation when the object is hit which Ikematsu teaches in steps 24- 26 when the target is hit with a bullet (Ikematsu, col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 5; and figure 7, steps 24-26).

As per claim 9, and similar claims 21, and 33 Ikematsu teaches the claimed “image generation system” comprising:

means for playing a motion of an object formed by a plurality of parts based on motion data which Ikematsu teaches in the simulation process (Ikematsu, col. 5, lines 3-59);

means for generating the motion of an object through a physical simulation which Ikematsu teaches in the simulation process (Ikematsu, col. 5, lines 3-59);

means for switching processing from a generation of the object's motion based on the motion data to a generation of the object's motion through the physical simulation to a play of the object's motion based on the motion data when a given condition is satisfied" (Ikematsu, col. 5, lines 34-59).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-7, 10-19, 22-31, and 34-36 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention. Specifically, the prior art fails to teach, in combination with the remaining elements as recited in claims 1, 13, and 25:

The arrangement of steps/means generating object's motion, playing object's motion, processing connecting motion in order to provide an image generation system which can realize a realistic, variable and natural representation of motion comprising: means for generating a motion of an object formed by a plurality of parts, by moving an Nth part through a physical simulation based on hit information when the Nth part is hit

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and sequentially transmitting the hit information to the N+1th, N+2th, N+3th parts so that the N+1th and the N+2th , the N+3th.....parts are sequentially moved through a physical simulation based on the transmitted hit information.

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Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Huedung Cao** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-5024.**

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Mark Zimmerman**, can be reached at **(703) 305-9798.**

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703)305-0377.

Huedung Cao
Patent Examiner



MARK ZIMMERMAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600